Research Notes: Thomas Brudell (1843 - 1922)

Research Overview:

Thomas Brudell (also recorded as Brudle) was a Roscommon farmer whose life is documented through marriage, land records, census returns, and the births of his children. He lived in and around the townland of Doon, an area where the Brudell, Daly, and Lenehan families appear repeatedly across nineteenth- and early twentieth-century records. The surname Brudell (also rendered as Brudle) is rare in Ireland, and Thomas's records form a central anchor for understanding how this family group functioned locally before later generations dispersed abroad.

Thomas married Mary Daly in 1869, linking two families with deep roots in the same small geographic area. The couple had nine children, born near Doon, and the family appears consistently in civil birth records and census returns. Spelling variation in the surname emerges in later birth registrations, with some of the younger children recorded as Brudell rather than Brudle, as spelling in Ireland during this time wasn't standardized. The household remains stable in place and composition over time.

Land records provide some of the strongest evidence for Thomas Brudell's adult life. He acquired land in 1866 and continued to hold approximately twenty acres into the early twentieth century, remaining in possession of this land through at least 1913. These records place him in close proximity to members of the Daly and Lenehan families, with whom he shared boundaries and, at times, land transactions. The repeated appearance of these families as neighbors suggests long-standing relationships that extend beyond a single generation.

Census evidence reinforces this picture of continuity. In the 1901 Irish census, Thomas Brudell appears in Doon alongside his household, while members of the Daly and Lenehan families are enumerated nearby. By 1911, the household reflects the passage of time, with adult children gone and the family structure reduced. These records situate Thomas within a stable local network rather than a transient or fragmented one.

At the same time, Thomas Brudell's family history raises unresolved questions. Although several collateral Brudell lines later appear in the United States and Australia, it appears that only one of Thomas and Mary Daly's children—Mary Brudell Healy—went on to have surviving descendants. This narrow continuation of the line stands in contrast to the broader dispersal seen among other Brudell families and underscores the importance of Thomas's records as a point of reference.

The purpose of this research is to document Thomas Brudell's life in Roscommon as accurately and completely as the surviving records allow, while preserving open questions about kinship, land transfer, and migration that cannot yet be resolved. His life provides a fixed point within a small, tightly connected community whose members appear repeatedly across civil records, land valuations, oral history, and DNA evidence, even as the precise relationships among them remain only partially defined.

Speculative Narrative:

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Time Line:

1843 - Birth at Clonakillabeg, Elphin, Roscommon, Ireland.[1]

1 Feb 1869 - Marriage to Mary Daly (1845 - 1911) at Tulsk Parish, Elphin, Roscommon, Ireland.[2] Tulsk Church - Witnesses: Luke Brudle and Sally Daly. On the marriage record, Mary Daly signs her name, and her husband, Thomas Brudle, marks with an "x"

3 Nov 1869 - Birth of daughter Anne Daly Brudell (1869 -1945) at Doon, Strokestown, Roscommon, Ireland.[3]

24 Sep 1871- Birth of son Michael J Brudell (1871 - 1944) at Doon, Strokestown, Roscommon, Ireland.

10 Sep 1873 - Birth of daughter Mary Cecelia Brudell (1873 - 1917) at Doon, Strokestown, Roscommon, Ireland.[4]

[1] Baptismal record

[2] "Ireland Civil Registration Indexes, 1845-1958", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FY3Q-SMG: Wed Mar 20 10:11:06 UTC 2024), Entry for Thomas Brudle and, 1869.

[3] "Ireland Births and Baptisms, 1620-1881", , *FamilySearch* (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:F52Z-L9N: 15 February 2020), Anne Brudle, 1869.

[4] "Ireland Civil Registration, 1845-1913", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QGYH-C81K: Mon Mar 04 22:09:48 UTC 2024), Entry for Mary Brudle and Thomas Brudle, 10 Sep 1873.

15 Sep 1875 - Birth of son John Brudell (1875 -1888) at Doon, Strokestown, Roscommon, Ireland.[5]

14 Dec 1877 - Birth of son James Joseph Brudell (1877 - 1953) at Doon, Strokestown, Roscommon, Ireland.[6]

6 Jul 1880 - Birth of son Bernard James Brudell (1880 -) at Doon, Strokestown, Roscommon, Ireland.[7]

1 Dec 1882 - Birth of daughter Helen Frances "Ellen" Brudell (1882 -) at Doon, Strokestown, Roscommon, Ireland.[8]

16 May 1885 - Birth of son Thomas Brudell (1885 -) at Doon, Strokestown, Roscommon, Ireland.[9]

9 Nov 1887 - Birth of daughter Gertrude "Rose" Brudell (1887 -) at Doon, Strokestown, Roscommon, Ireland.[10]

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[5] "Ireland Civil Registration Indexes, 1845-1958", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FB97-2ZZ: Wed Mar 20 15:59:16 UTC 2024), Entry for John Brudell, 1875.

[6] "United States World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:V1VL-ZLY: Sat Feb 24 03:56:55 UTC 2024), Entry for James Joseph Brudell, 1942.

[7] "Ireland Births and Baptisms, 1620-1881", , *FamilySearch* (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FPT6-6BD: 5 February 2020), Bernard Brudle, 1880.

[8] "Illinois Deaths and Stillbirths, 1916-1947", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:N3WY-QLR: Fri Mar 08 00:40:14 UTC 2024), Entry for Helen B. Major and Thomas Brudall, 2 July 1924.

[9] "Find a Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVG9-JJGR: 1 July 2020), Thomas Brudell, 1953; Burial, , ; citing record ID , *Find a Grave*, http://www.findagrave.com.

[10] "United States, Social Security Numerical Identification Files (NUMIDENT), 1936-2007", database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6K99-4TKZ: 10 February 2023), Gertrude M Brudell, .

24 Dec 1888 - Death of son John Brudell (1875 - 1888) at Doon, Strokestown, Roscommon, Ireland.[11]

1901 - Irish Census[12]

Thomas Brudle, 58

Mary Brudle, 55

James Brudle, 21

Bernard Brudle, 19

Thomas Brudle, 15

Gertrude Brudle, 12

1911 - Irish Census[13]

Thomas Brudle, 68

Thomas Brudle, 24

Gertrude Brudle, 22

[11] Ireland, Civil Registration Deaths Index, 1864-1958; John Brudell, Birth 1876, Date of Registration 1889, Death Age 13, Registration District Strokestown, Volume 3, page 261, FHL Film - 101595

[12] "Ireland Census, 1901," database, *FamilySearch* (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QYLW-24MM: 27 December 2018), Thomas Brudell, 1901; citing Annaghmore, County Roscommon, Ireland, Census, National Archives of Ireland, Dublin.

[13] "Ireland Census, 1911," database, *FamilySearch* (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QYLW-24MM: 27 December 2018), Thomas Brudell, 1911; citing Annaghmore, County Roscommon, Ireland, Census, National Archives of Ireland, Dublin.

1917 - Death of wife Mary Daly (1845 - 1917) at Roscommon, Ireland.[14]

1 Jan 1917- Death of daughter Mary Cecelia Brudell (1873 - 1917) at Chicago, Cook, Illinois. [15]

1922- Death at Roscommon, Ireland.[16]

1922 - Burial at Tulsk, Roscommon, Ireland.[17]

[14] Death of wife Mary Daly

[15] "Illinois Deaths and Stillbirths, 1916-1947", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:N3PS-LP1: Sun Mar 10 07:46:35 UTC 2024), Entry for Mary Healy and Thomas Brudell, 1 January 1917.

[16] "Ireland Civil Registration Indexes, 1845-1958", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FTN7-259: Tue Sep 10 02:28:11 UTC 2024), Entry for Thomas Brudell, from Apr 1922 to Jun 1922.

[17] "Ireland Civil Registration Indexes, 1845-1958", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FTN7-259: Tue Sep 10 02:28:11 UTC 2024), Entry for Thomas Brudell, from Apr 1922 to Jun 1922.

Appendix

A. Ellen Brown shared several Brudell family trees, which collectively contain extensive information on multiple Brudell lines. While the material is detailed, it is not immediately clear how the individual trees relate to one another, and the format makes it difficult to view the family as a single, coherent structure. I would prefer to consolidate this information into one integrated Brudell tree.

The trees Ellen provided include early generations born in Ireland as well as later generations connected to those lines. In a February 10, 2011 email, Ellen described the material as consisting of sheets labeled A, B, and C, representing the main Irish-born generation, with additional sheets (1, 2, 3, 8, and 10) documenting later generations derived from that group. Although the labeling system is unclear, the material as a whole contains enough information to construct a detailed descendancy chart for the Brudell family.

Ellen [Brown from Australia] on a February 10, 2011, email in my Brudell file on email.

B

I have a copy of a marriage record for Catherine Brudel, who married Patrick Geary in 1843. At present, it is unclear where Catherine Brudel fits within the broader Brudell family tree. Given the rarity of the Brudell surname in Ireland and the concentration of Brudell records in this area of Roscommon, it is reasonable to consider whether Catherine may belong to the same extended

family group. Whether she can be identified as a sister of any known Brudell individual remains speculative and unresolved.

Catholic Church, Strokestown Parish, Elphin Diocese, Co. Roscommon, Ireland, Marriages, 1833-1864, no p., 1843, Patritium Gearty – Catherinam Brudel ; National Library of Ireland, Dublin, Ireland;
FHL microfilm 989745.

C.

I received an email from Diana Barr, a researcher related to Daniel Hines, the husband of my ancestor Ellen Brudell. Diana identified herself as a careful researcher and shared information drawn from her own family work on the Hines line.

Family memory adds context to Ellen Brudell's later life. My great-aunt Mary Healy Hopkinson met Ellen Brudell once and recalled that Ellen played a significant role in encouraging members of her extended family to immigrate to the United States. I knew my Aunt Mary personally; she died at age ninety-nine. Her recollection places her in direct conversation with the widow of a Civil War veteran, an otherwise undocumented but meaningful link across generations.

Diana reported that she located the marriage record for Daniel Hines and Ellen Brudell on FindMyPast, though she was unable to view the image at the time of writing. She stated that she has access to the image on her home computer and recalled that Ellen's maiden name was spelled Brundle in that record. She was unable to remember the names of the witnesses. Diana also noted that Ellen appears under different given names in census records and asked how I

recorded her in my tree, explaining that she lists her as Mary Ellen because she appears as Mary in some census entries.

D.

In the 1870 census, Ellen Brudell appears under the name Ellen, and she is recorded as Ellen again in the 1880 and 1900 censuses, as well as in the pension papers. She is also listed as Ellen in the marriage record. I had previously recorded their marriage date as 12 October 1869, but placed it at St. Mary of the Assumption. While the date was correct, the church was incorrectly identified. The marriage took place at Immaculate Conception, and the record has been corrected accordingly. I no longer recall where the original church attribution came from.

My Ancestry tree is maintained under the username kamteal2017 and is currently public. I also use the handle dbmdroots.

E**.**

I received the following email.

I received an email from Isabel (Henry) Browne (*izy.browne@gmail.com*), who identified herself as a descendant of Gertrude Bessie (Brudell) Farrell. Isabel wrote that her grandmother, Mabel Bonita Farrell, was Gertrude Bessie's youngest daughter. She stated that her father and his two sisters are still living.

Isabel explained that Quentin Henry had shared with her a copy of the Brudell information I previously sent him. She expressed interest in updating the family

information and sharing additional details, noting that she found the existing material informative and relevant to her own family research.

Isabel (Henry) Browne izy.browne@gmail.com

F.

I received an email from Carol, daughter of Mary Agnes Brown, who wrote regarding her family's connection to the Brudell line. Carol stated that her mother is 92 years old and has long known that members of the family emigrated to the United States. She also noted that her mother has a DNA match with my family.

Carol identified her great-grandmother as Bessie Brudell, who married Charles Walters Farrell in Australia. According to Carol, Bessie was the second daughter of Luke Brudell (son of Michael Brudell) and Mary Brudell (née Hunt). She reported that Bessie traveled to Australia with a sister. Carol noted uncertainty regarding Bessie's age, explaining that Bessie was known to change her stated birth year depending on circumstances.

Carol wrote that she is attempting to connect the various Brudell family branches and to trace the family back beyond Michael Brudell. She expressed interest in making contact with other Brudell descendants. Carol provided her contact information as carolrosten6@gmail.com.

Mary Beth has a "Theory of Family Relativity" from My Heritage that predicts Mary Agnes Henry is my 3rd cousin, twice removed.

G

Ursula and I are attempting to determine whether James Daly and Andrew Daly were brothers. As of 2023, we believed this to be the case based on DNA matches with documented descendants of Andrew Daly in the United States. Those matches suggest a close familial relationship, but they do not, on their own, establish the precise nature of that relationship.

Ursula noted the difficulty of proving a sibling relationship between James and Andrew Daly, as no surviving church or civil records have been identified for the relevant period. The absence of contemporary documentation leaves the question unresolved, and the proposed relationship remains supported primarily by genetic evidence rather than direct records.

H.

I received a further email from Ursula regarding the Daly–Brudell land records. Based on her review, it appears that James Daly sold land to Thomas Brudle, a transaction that may help clarify the relationship between the Daly and Brudell families. Ursula asked that I note whether anything in the record had been overlooked.

In reviewing the family more broadly, I observed that among the children of Thomas Brudle and Mary Daly, it appears that only my great-grandmother, Mary Brudell Healy, had surviving children. *[Note: another of Mary Brudell Healy's siblings also had children.]* This observation highlights how narrowly the family line continued into later generations.

Ursula and I continue to focus on the question of whether James Daly and Andrew Daly were brothers. I searched for evidence supporting this relationship but did not locate records with birth dates that would allow the relationship to be established conclusively. In addition, I have not identified records for Katherine Daly, Andrew Daly, or the daughter of Anne Farrell, leaving several individuals within this family group undocumented.

I.

Brudle or Brudell?

Thomas Brudle and Mary Daly had nine children, born near the townland of Doon in Roscommon. In the Irish civil birth records, some of their younger children appear with the surname spelled Brudell, while earlier records use Brudle, reflecting inconsistent spelling rather than a documented change in family identity.

Based on the surviving records, it appears that only one of their children—my great-great-grandmother, Mary Brudell Healy—went on to have children of her own. She may be the only member of the Brudle/Brudell family line to have living descendants, based on the records identified to date.”

In the 1911 Irish census, members of the Patrick Lenehan family were living on the same farm as the Brudell household. Their presence raises unresolved questions about household structure and possible kinship. It is not yet known who the Lenehans were or whether they may be connected to Neal Conroy, a current DNA match.

I

Ursula, my Daly cousin in Dublin, Ireland, shared a Daly–Brudell land record and provided explanatory notes covering several related transactions from the nineteenth century. In her message, she wrote that Thomas Brudle acquired land in 1866, that James Daly held land in Annaghmore in 1876, and that this land later passed to the representatives of Ann Daly and Michael Daly. Ursula noted that the property ultimately went to Ann and Michael Daly's son, John, identified here as her grandfather, and consisted of approximately twenty acres. She also stated that Thomas Brudle continued to hold approximately twenty acres through at least 1913.

Ursula offered to obtain additional records, including detailed maps from the valuation office showing plot numbers, house locations, and the physical layout of the holdings, and indicated she could provide copies of these materials. I did not follow up on this offer at the time, as I was uncertain how to interpret the maps or how the plot and house-location information would clarify family relationships without additional context.

J

My cousin Ursula, who lives in Ireland, shared family recollections regarding the relationship between Thomas Brudle and John Daly. Ursula spoke again with her aunt Eileen Daly McGreevy, who stated—subject to Ursula's recollection being accurate—that Eileen's father, John Daly (Ursula's grandfather), and Thomas Brudle were not only friends in Roscommon but were also first cousins. According to the 1901 Irish census, both men were fifteen years old at the time.

Ursula relayed further details about Thomas Brudle's later life. Thomas married a woman named [Ann] Hunt and owned a farm in Carrownvalley, located adjacent to Doon. He later sold the farm and purchased a pub in Strokestown known as The Sportsman Inn. After Thomas's death, one of his brothers—possibly Michael—took over the pub with his wife, who was from Dublin. Ursula noted that one of their descendants is still living and is now in her seventies, though Eileen was unable to identify her further.

K.

In 1862, a Thomas Lenehan held a house and land adjacent to James Daly in Doon, Roscommon. James Daly and his wife, Anne Carlos, are direct ancestors of Mary Beth Mueller. Over time, the Lenehan property changed hands, passing to Patrick Lenehan in 1888, to his representatives in 1895, and again to a Patrick Lenehan in 1901. In the 1901 census, Patrick Lenehan was 27 years old and had a brother named Bernard. By 1961, the house was transferred to John Lenehan. Members of the Brudell family—another of Mary Beth's ancestral lines—were also neighbors in this same area, reinforcing long-term proximity among these families.

Another member of the family, Mary Kate Lenehan, appears in the 1901 census in Doon and emigrated in 1905 to join her sister Lizzie Lenehan in Baltimore, as documented in the passenger manifest. The Lenehan family's repeated presence in this area and their later migration patterns raise the possibility of a connection to DNA matches appearing in Mary Beth's results.

Ursula does not share DNA with Jeff Toohey, but Mary Beth does. In Jeff Toohey's family tree, he lists Mary Daly (1820–1882)—who married Bernard Lanahan and died in Roscommon—as an ancestor. There is also a second Mary

Daly (1843–1901) who married Richard Law of Doon. Ursula has a DNA match to Nancy Callahan, a descendant of Theresa Law, daughter of Mary Daly, herself identified as the daughter of Thomas Daly, who is described as a possible—but not yet proven—son of James Daly Sr.

While the DNA connections involved are distant, taken together, they suggest that the Daly family line documented in Doon is likely connected to other Daly families in the same area, despite earlier family recollections to the contrary, including statements attributed to Eileen Daly McGreevy.

L.

John Daly who appears in Pat Sweeney's tree, but land records suggest a close association. In 1862, Andrew Daly parted with his land, conveying a portion to John Daly and the remainder to James Brennan. Around the same period, John Daly also received land from Thomas Daly, who is believed to have been his father.

These land transfers place Andrew, John, and Thomas Daly within the same narrow geographic and temporal frame and suggest family relationships that are not explicitly documented in church or civil records. When considered alongside DNA matches associated with the Lenehan household in Doon, the evidence points to an interconnected network linking the Daly and Lenehan families across Roscommon, Baltimore, and Chicago, even though the precise relationships remain unresolved. These associations are recorded here to preserve evidence of proximity and transaction; the precise family relationships remain unproven.

M.

Kyle Bedit, an Ancestry Pro genealogist, suggested that the Brudell family was a promising focus for research, as Brudell is a relatively uncommon Irish surname. Within the extended family, some branches immigrated to the United States while others went to Australia, resulting in two widely separated migration paths. This pattern raises a central question for this project: why did related Brudell lines migrate to two such distant destinations?

N.

Brudell Family Correspondence with Peggy McCurtain Brudell

These notes summarize correspondence with Peggy McCurtain Brudell of Strokestown, Roscommon, whose late husband, Michael Brudell, was from Doon. She said Michael's parents were Thomas Brudell and Anne Hunt, and Thomas had a sister, Gertrude Brudell, who died in 1962.

Peggy recalled a visit to Doon in the 1960s by Ann Healy, who traveled from the United States and was described as a niece of Thomas and Gertrude Brudell and a first cousin of Michael Brudell. Ann was accompanied by Marie Brudell of Doon. She said that Marie was the daughter of Alfred Brudell of Bunamucka, near Strokestown, and that Alfred's Brudell line was believed by her in-laws to be unrelated to the Brudells of Doon.

Peggy identified the Brudell family burial plot as located in Kilcooley Cemetery, between Strokestown and Tulsk. The headstone is a general memorial and does

not list individual names. Those believed to be buried there include Thomas Brudell and Anne Hunt, their son Tommy Brudell, Gertrude Brudell, and, by family tradition, “Big Tom” Brudell (father of Thomas Brudell b. 1885) and his wife Mary Daly. Peggy did not have death dates for Big Tom or Mary Daly.

She was unable to provide information on James Joseph Brudell (born 14 December 1877) or Bernard James Brudell, noting only an unconfirmed family story that Bernard may have died in a road accident in the 1940s. Peggy did confirm dates for her husband’s parents: Thomas Brudell (b. 25 May 1885 – d. 10 March 1953) and Anne Hunt Brudell (died June 1969).

Peggy also shared two family traditions regarding the origin of the Brudell surname: one linking the family to French soldiers who arrived during the 1798 United Irishmen Rebellion, and another suggesting descent from Huguenot settlers in County Waterford. She regarded the Huguenot explanation as more likely, though neither tradition has been supported by documentary research.

Peggy expressed interest in seeing the Brudell family tree compiled by Mary Beth Mueller, which incorporates earlier work by Mary Healy Hopkinson as well as later research. She indicated a willingness to share additional information if it becomes available.